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UNDP mobilizes world soccer to fight poverty

Members and observers of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board sport T-shirts bearing the logo of a new international campaign "A Goal: Human Development".

Members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund showed their support for a new human development campaign enlisting World Cup and other soccer players from around the globe. Breaking from regular Executive Board business on the hectic final day of the week devoted to UNDP, Board participants donned T-shirts, badges and baseball caps bearing the logo of a new international campaign "A Goal: Human Development", and signed their names to an official campaign soccer ball.

Launched by UNDP and Survie, a French non-governmental organization, the new campaign is mobilizing the world's national soccer teams, including those that qualified for the World Cup, to urge the international community to promote human development in developing and industrialized countries.

Scores of soccer stars have signed the appeal calling for "more human resources" and "additional financial means" to fight the scourge of poverty.

The 1994 Human Development Report *was launched internationally on 1 June in Copenhagen, Denmark, followed by regional workshops and seminars in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year's report advances a new concept of human security and offers several concrete proposals for the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995 in Copenhagen. Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator and chief architect of the report, presented a copy to Helle Degn, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Government of Denmark.*

In this issue:

Executive Board examines future direction of UNDP — New proposal for the Office for Project Services — Mekong consultations: a plan in the making — Civil society organisations participate in Social Summit dialogue

The appeal is not for charity or generosity of individuals, but rather a civic gesture of global responsibility. The soccer players' appeal promotes a "pledge to the people of the planet" to be endorsed by decision-makers and ordinary citizens on five continents. The pledge summarizes key decisions and measures needed to eradicate global poverty. The measures proposed are drawn from a set of recommendations laid out in the Human Development Reports published yearly by UNDP.

Along with signing the anti-poverty appeal, each national team that supports "A Goal: Human Development" also signs a soccer ball donated by ADIDAS, bearing the campaign's logo. All of these balls, bearing the signatures of the best known soccer stars, will be on exhibit this summer at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

In connection with this international campaign, UNDP was invited by the World Cup New York Host Committee and the Norwegian Consulate to participate in the opening of a new soccer field, donated by Norway to inner-city children in New York. UNDP provided the T-shirts for a local youth club that played against a Norwegian team on the newly-inaugurated Norway Field. "The T-shirts that you see the Red Hook team wear come from a campaign called A goal: Human Development. This is an inspirational campaign for a better life for kids all over the world," said H.J. Biorn Lian, the Norwegian Ambassador to the United Nations.

Executive Board examines future direction of UNDP

The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund concluded the first week of its Annual Session with the adoption of decisions which will greatly influence the future of UNDP. Among subjects addressed were UNDP programming cycles, South Africa, OPS and other matters. The full session of the Executive Board was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 6 to 16 June, with the second week devoted to UNFPA.

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth introduced a report entitled "Initiatives for Change", on the future of UNDP, which arose out of a series of consultations held by the Administrator since mid 1993, first in-house, then in bilateral consultations with governments, with a panel of eminent persons and with the Executive Board in February 1994. Finally, the Administrator consulted all UNDP Resident Representatives in a global meeting held recently in Rye, New York. Mr. Speth urged countries to unite behind the proposed programme for change.

The Executive Board commended the Administrator on his "Initiatives for Change" and welcomed the initiatives proposed in it. The Board encouraged the Administrator to continue his efforts to focus UNDP's programme by taking steps to achieve the three goals and to act in the four priority areas outlined in the report. These goals include strengthening international cooperation for sustainable human development, helping the United Nations become a unified and powerful force for sustainable human development, and focusing UNDP's own resources on making the maximum contribution in the countries it serves to certain key dimensions of sustainable human development. The four priority areas are: poverty elimination, environmental regeneration, job creation and the advancement of women. The Board also emphasized that national development priorities shall be the primary determinant of UNDP-supported programmes, which must remain country-driven.

Executive Board decides on future of Office for Project Services

The Executive Board proposed to the General Assembly a new approach to the status of UNDP's Office for Project Services, its project-implementing arm. The Board proposed that OPS become "a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with UNDP and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and which will continue to work through the UNDP field network."

The Board also agreed, in principle, to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, a Management Coordinating Committee under the chairmanship of the Administrator of UNDP, and an OPS Users' Advisory Group under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for the UN Department for Development Support and Management Services.

The Board welcomed the Republic of South Africa as a recipient country in UNDP. It authorized the Administrator to allocate $10 million to the Republic of South Africa for the remaining period of UNDP's fifth programming cycle, which runs from 1992-1996.

Also adopted was a decision on the role of UNDP in implementing the UN New Agenda for African Development in the 1990s. The decision calls on the Administrator, African countries and the international community to continue to support the implementation of this New Agenda.

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The Board also approved a revision of the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) to the level of 70 per cent of the originally established levels for the programming period 1992-1996, while urging the Administrator to continue his endeavour to find resources to enable restoration of IPFs to the original levels. UNDP's resources are currently allocated to countries on the basis of need according to an internationally agreed formula. The IPF is the projected amount that should be available for programme activities in a country or for regional and interregional programmes over a five-year period.

The Board also considered a paper by the Administrator which proposed the establishment of a new framework for the next programming period of UNDP. This document was designed to elicit response and guidance from delegations on principles on which to base programming and resource distribution.

The Board decided to continue its consideration of these issues at its upcoming Regular Session in October, with a view to reaching a final decision on the next programming period at its 1995 Annual Session. It requested the Administrator to outline a possible structure for future deliberations. A document should show how the Administrator intends to apply "Initiatives for Change" to the next programming period. The document should also address options for the revision of the IPF programming framework, and options for the revision of the method of resource distribution.

The Board also took note of a report of the Administrator on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The report states that while UNDP was seeking to integrate the vision of Agenda 21 into its programmes in light of new challenges posed by changing global conditions, the need to deal with immediate crises diverted attention from longer-term development. Priority must be given to preventive approaches and long-term development, along with short-term relief efforts.

Mekong consultations: A new plan in the making

UNDP is actively facilitating negotiations among the four riparian countries of the Mekong River — Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam — with a view to establishing a new framework for cooperation for the sustainable use of the waters of the Mekong River, including its principal tributaries. UNDP has also provided the services of a high-level adviser with vast experience in international negotiations of this kind.

In the meantime, the draft Mekong Work Programme for 1994 has been prepared by the Mekong Secretariat in consultation with national Mekong Committees for the development of the resources of the Mekong River Basin. The document presents a continuously updated overview of the Mekong Secretariat's ongoing and planned activities.

The draft work programme for 1994 contains a portfolio of 117 projects including 12 new basinwide projects as well as 10 new national or country-specific projects. The inclusion of as many as 20 projects in Cambodia reflects the need by the Mekong Secretariat to pay particular attention to the pressing development needs of Cambodia. Cambodian projects would target a wide range of needs including hydrometeorology, aerial photography, wetlands preservation, hydropower, irrigation, fisheries and human resources development.

The policy and planning component of the draft work programme includes studies which would be used for policy formulation and decision-making. One of the particularly noteworthy new initiatives for 1994 is a project aimed at enhancing the legal framework for water management in the lower Mekong Basin. Technical support activities will include database development, analysis of basic river basin information, mapping and environmental studies. The bulk of the new projects in the work programme deal with resources development including the electrification of the Khone Falls area, flood control planning, facilitation of private sector participation in hydropower development and aquaculture development. All of these proposed activities fully reflect the need to weigh development and environment considerations.

Although support by the international donor community to activities sponsored by the Interim Mekong Committee continues to be provided, including institutional support by UNDP to the Mekong Secretariat itself, support for new activities will be greatly facilitated once formal agreement on a new framework for cooperation is reached.

Civil society organizations participate in Social Summit dialogue

UNDP is supporting the participation of NGOs and other institutions of civil society in developing countries in the preparatory process and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development. The Summit, which will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in March 1995, will address three core issues: reducing poverty, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration.

Although a number of NGOs and networks have been involved in the Summit's process since it began over a year ago and have already taken a wide range of initiatives, much remains to be done to ensure that such organiza-

tions will have opportunities to gain access to the process drawing on their considerable experience in implementing programmes and analyzing and influencing policies. UNDP's support will be used, over the next eighteen months, to assist efforts by NGOs, at the national, regional and global levels, to coordinate among themselves and interact with governments on the issues before the Summit.

Specifically, UNDP will support activities undertaken by NGOs and other institutions of the civil society that can promote a policy dialogue with governments on the broader macroeconomic policy issues that relate to social development and encourage innovative thinking on financing for social development; contribute to NGO capacity building in the areas of poverty reduction, employment and social integration; stimulate research; and strengthen advocacy as well as cost-effective techniques for networking and information dissemination. Most of the resources for this project will be used in support of national and regional activities of NGOs and other institutions of the civil society.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Monitoring and Research Network for Greenhouse Gases in the Southern Cone — The long-term objectives of this Global Environment Facility programme are to assist in the global understanding of ozone changes, to enable calculation of trends and estimation of effects of ozone changes.

The programme will help establish three to four new ozone stations and 11 stations of the Global Ozone Observing System in South America. It will also help to improve involvement of Southern Cone scientists in international research activities. In addition, the programme will raise awareness of the causes and potential effects of ozone depletion in the academic community, the media and among policy and decision-makers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

GEF funds: $1.9 million. Funds will be used for international experts in specialized equipment calibration, data collection and training. Executed by the World Meteorological Organization. Implemented by the National Meteorological Services. (RLA/93/G31)

Burkina Faso — Management of natural forests — This project will help to devise and carry out management plans for the natural forests covering 100,000 hectares around Ouagadougou. It will help restore and maintain forest areas while improving villagers' standard of living through a rational and sustainable production of firewood.

UNDP contribution: $5,146,000. Government counterpart budget: $300,000. Funds will be used for training, equipment, and experts in forest management, wood processing, livestock production and agro-forestry. Executed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Cooperation agency is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (BKF/93/003)

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A UNDP Exhibition to Fight Poverty is Opened by the UN Secretary-General

Maureen Lynch / UNDP

From right to left: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth, Cameroon soccer player Joseph-Antoine Bell, and his son Antoine-Charles at the opening of a soccer exhibition to raise awareness of poverty

An exhibit of soccer balls signed by many of the world's top players was opened at the United Nations in New York on 1 July by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The opening marked the official launch of a global public awareness campaign on poverty which teams together world soccer stars, UNDP and the French NGO Survie.

The event followed an address to the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) earlier in the day by Cameroon soccer star Joseph-Antoine Bell. The renowned goal-keeper spoke on behalf of more than 1,200 soccer players from some 74 countries on the importance of the anti-poverty campaign, which is titled "A Goal: Human Development." Soccer players from around the world have signed an appeal to mobilize public awareness and support needed to combat poverty, as well as soccer balls, which will remain on display in the UN visitors lobby through the end of July.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the UN Secretary-General said that he was glad to inaugurate this global movement against poverty, which he called a campaign for education, for freedom from hunger, for a decent education for the young, for health care, and for clean water. "Today, the footballers of the world, and the community of NGOs, are joining the United Nations to make those goals the goals of everyone, everywhere," he said. "This is a campaign to gain support for sustainable human development ... and they are urging us to start the ball rolling."

The initiative seeks to bolster public awareness of the human suffering that is being wrought by pervasive poverty every day in a world where 1.5 billion people lack basic health services and 1.3 billion have no access to safe drinking water. The appeal signed by the soccer players urges policy makers to wage an attack on poverty, and to ensure that within the next decade "no child will go without education, no human being will be denied either primary health care or safe drinking water, and that no one will be condemned to hunger."

In this issue:

Site selected for new international vaccine institute — UNDP Administrator addresses ECOSOC — GEF Small Grants Programme

In order to reach these objectives, according to UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report, an additional $30-$40 billion is required annually for human priority concerns.

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth, who introduced the Cameroonian goal-keeper to the Secretary-General at the opening ceremony, said in his statement that in every three seconds, in the developing world, a child dies who might have lived. "An immense effort is needed," Mr. Speth said. "The skills and resources required to escape the poverty spiral exist. But people and nations, in the South and the North, must decide to put them to use."

What is required, Mr. Speth said, is an unprecedented mobilization of people everywhere to replace poverty with sustainable human development. For that mobilization to happen, "we must communicate with the broadest possible audience, so that people everywhere understand that poverty on such a scale imperils the future of every child on earth. This is why we are so pleased that top football players from all over the world responded so quickly and in such numbers to support this global awareness-raising campaign."

Republic of Korea to Host New International Vaccine Institute

After a seven-month intensive search in the East Asia and Pacific region, a site selection committee which was assembled by UNDP has chosen Seoul, Republic of Korea as the location of a new International Vaccine Institute (IVI) that will provide important quality control, testing, research and development and training services in the area of vaccine production for developing countries.

Concentrating at first on offering assistance in the Asia and Pacific region, the Institute will provide much needed scientific and technical services to vaccine manufacturers and national institutes, aiming to ensure that high quality standards for vaccines being manufactured or developed are met. The IVI will also carry out research and development into potential new vaccines.

Expected to be fully operational within the next four or five years, the IVI is being established at an estimated cost of $40 million, and is being financed by the Republic of Korea. The facility, which will establish linkages and technical exchanges with national institutes and vaccine producers in Europe and in North and South America, is a part of the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI), a global partnership launched in 1991 which aims to help develop and deliver new, improved and affordable vaccines to the children of the world. Along with UNDP, co-sponsors of the CVI are the World Health Organization, the World Bank, UNICEF and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Institute is expected to house fully equipped state-of-the-art labs and employ some 40 to 50 senior scientists along with 150 technical and administrative staff. Even though it is not expected to be completed until early 1999, activities should begin to get underway later this year at temporary facilities in Seoul.

The initiative is being coordinated by UNDP's Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP), which put up the $600,000 for the feasibility study. Six countries in the region were considered potential candidates to host the facility, and two finalists, China and Thailand, were visited along with the Republic of Korea. While China was ultimately not selected, an important educational and training complex that is expected to cooperate with the IVI will operate in Beijing.

In addition to paying for the Institute's construction, the Republic of Korea is also expected to fund about thirty per cent of its estimated $10-15 million annual operating budget. Experts associated with the initiative say that this involvement sets something of a precedent for the government. "It shows an interest on their part in being involved in promoting international health, and especially in the area of children's vaccine development and technology transfer," said Frank Hartvelt, deputy director of UNDP's DGIP. "It also helps the country create an important image as a contributor within the UN system, especially in the important area of children's health."

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Debates Development

Speaking at the high-level session of ECOSOC that focused on the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development, UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth called the consultations surrounding this unprecedented report extraordinarily important, and was adamant that the deliberative process should not be allowed to fail. "We must move forward to a new commitment to sustainable human development, to a new framework of international cooperation for development and to a dramatically reinvigorated and strengthened UN system," the UNDP Administrator said.

The Agenda for Development was issued by the United Nations in May to revitalize the vision of development and to stimulate an intensified discussion of all its aspects. "Today, the competition to bring development to the poorest countries has ended," the report says. "Many donors have grown weary of the task. Many of the poor are dispirited. Development is in crisis."

The report was also the basis for

much discussion earlier in June during the World Hearings for Development in New York, a one-week meeting of experts organized by the United Nations where its contents were debated, as were recommendations concerning the future of the UN system's role in development.

At the high-level session of ECOSOC on 29 June, Mr. Speth said that the UN's development programmes are a great international asset, but that they should be made more effective, efficient and integrated. "The strongest argument for strengthening the UN's work in the development and humanitarian areas is the success of its past efforts, the strong institutions that exist and that are proving their usefulness every day, and the growing demand for the on-the-ground services the United Nations can and must provide."

The UNDP Administrator called upon the community of nations to act together to respond to the most pressing challenges of the world's peoples, which he identified as poverty and hunger, joblessness, social disintegration and conflict, environmental deterioration, population and migration pressures and the denial of fundamental freedoms. "Operational support for sustainable human development by the United Nations is the concrete commitment that the community of nations can take in concert to meet these challenges," he said, "none of which can be met except in the context of development."

Speaking on the relationship between peace-building and development, Mr. Speth made clear that as a practical matter it is not possible to separate the two. "Preventive diplomacy must help safeguard development and preventive development must help safeguard peace," he stated. "We must remember what the United Nations founders knew — that a United Nations with military authority without being a force for human betterment is to be an international enforcer without moral authority ... the UN cannot be a strong force for peace unless it is also a strong force for development."

Mr. Speth called for an increase in funding and other support, and added that a stronger, shared vision of the UN's work in humanitarian and development areas is needed as well. In all its development work, the United Nations must promote growth, but growth with equity, employment, environment and empowerment," he said.

Small Grants Programme for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) poised for Growth

With the two-year pilot phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme drawing to a conclusion later this year, a call for its continuation and expansion is already being made resoundingly clear. "Thirty-two countries were designated to be part of the pilot phase, and 45 countries have already expressed interest in being included in its next phase, which will run from 1995 to 1997," said Peter Hazlewood, UNDP Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme.

Since the end of 1992, the programme, with a total global operating budget of US $16 million for the two-year period, has supported some 250 projects carried out by NGO and community groups in 29 developing countries. The latest country to be added to this roster is Brazil, with the Brazilian NGO Instituto Sociedade Populacao E Natureza (ISPN) recently named as the local host organization for the initiative.

The GEF Small Grants Programme is designed to support and develop environmental programmes at the community and grassroots levels, and targets the four primary GEF focal areas for action: preserving biodiversity, combatting global warming, protecting international waters, and reducing emissions of ozone-depleting substances. Grants can

The GEF Small Grants Programme is assisting a Farmers' Association in the Philippines in regenerating natural vegetation destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

Mary Lynn Hanley / UNDP

run as high as $50,000. The vast majority of grants made during the pilot phase are in the areas of global warming and biodiversity protection. The programme is managed by UNDP through a very decentralized process involving National Selection Committees (NSCs) that have been created in the participating countries.

UNDP convened three regional workshops this spring and summer to bring together national coordinators, members of NSCs and UNDP staff that are involved in the small grants programme. The first, for Europe and Asia, was held in Jakarta in May; the second, for Africa and the Arab States, was held this month in Mombasa, Kenya; and the third, for Latin America and the Caribbean, will be held in Costa Rica in August. The workshops are aiming to facilitate an exchange of information on programme experience among these key participants and to build important partnerships.

"This programme fills an important need and my sense is that it will most certainly be expanded in the next phase," Mr. Hazlewood said. "The advantage to small grants is that they directly involve and promote NGO and local group participation, thereby leading to capacity-building."

For the next phase, priority is being given to the formulation of a three-year plan and budget for the 1995-1997 period. This will provide for the programme's expansion, and will allow for an inter-country component that will provide grants of up to $250,000 to NGOs for subregional and regional activities.

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